

CHAPTER 4. AREA SECURITY OPERATIONS

Military police conduct area security operations to protect critical functions, facilities, and forces. To ensure support and sustainment operations are uninterrupted, military police synchronize efforts with other combat support and combat service support units within the AO. The HN, when capable, retains responsibility for security of areas outside U.S. bases, but commanders are ultimately responsible for the defense and security of their forces.

During peace operations, military police conduct area security in and around areas devastated by natural or manmade disasters to assist civilian or government agencies with the protection of life and property. During contingency operations, military police conduct area security operations to protect the Force, restore order, and ensure freedom of movement.

Area security operations encompass those areas within the boundaries of the GCE, CSSE, and ACE, as well as the MAGTF rear area. Security measures taken by individual units reduce the probability or minimize the effects of enemy attacks on friendly installations and areas. Each unit must be able to provide local security with organic assets. Military police operating throughout the parent command's AO may respond to augment or reinforce those forces.

To support the MAGTF commander's intent, military police conduct security operations, which include:

- ┆ Rear area security.
- ┆ Airfield security.
- ┆ FARP security.
- ┆ NBC hazard monitor and survey operations.
- ┆ Port operations security.
- ┆ Logistic convoy security.

Command Post Security

Often MP area security capabilities are misapplied to provide command post (CP) security. The commander may establish an interior guard to preserve order, protect property, and enforce regulations within the jurisdiction of the command. An interior guard force, which is entirely separate from the MP force, should be the primary security force within the CP area.

Methods

By virtue of their constant movement, military police provide security to assist in protecting units, critical facilities, MSRs, and airfields. The mobility and firepower inherent within MP teams allow them to engage small enemy units by fire and movement. Military police are capable of destroying these enemy units or disrupting their actions or preparations. Should military police encounter a threat level too large to engage, they are capable of fixing or delaying the enemy and calling for supporting fires. Military police accomplish area security primarily by conducting motor and foot patrols.

Motor Patrols

The MP motor patrols perform the same functions for area security as they do for MMSO in maintaining the security of MSRs and LOC in the AO.

Foot Patrols

The MP foot patrols help to prevent infiltration and surprise attacks aimed at stationary units, facilities, or critical points along MSRs. Though limited in size, these patrols can be used to perform hasty area reconnaissance or security functions. Based on the mission, the situation, and the need for additional security, an MP foot patrol may be comprised of one or more teams.

The MP motor patrol teams may also conduct limited foot patrols by parking their vehicle and providing security while other team members move on foot. These teams are well trained in fire and movement techniques, which prepare them to engage the enemy. Once enemy contact is made, the patrol takes actions based on the patrol's mission. Regardless of the mission, MP patrols always gather as much information as possible.

Rear Area Security

Rear area security (RAS) operations are conducted to protect the MAGTF rear against enemy interference. In a contiguous battlespace, the MAGTF rear area is

that area from the GCE rear boundary to the MAGTF rear boundary. Normally, the contiguous battlespace is organized in a linear manner with deep, close, and rear areas adjacent to each other and oriented toward the enemy. Noncontiguous battlespace is organized in a nonlinear manner. In a noncontiguous battlespace, the rear area may consist of several different locations and at great distance from the majority of Marine units.

During MAGTF operations, combat service support normally originates from the rear area of the battlefield. Many of the ACE facilities established ashore also operate from the rear area. The enemy will attempt to disrupt and demoralize rear area forces by interrupting support activities, interdicting LOC, and trying to cause a diversion of combat power from the close battle to protect the rear area. The threat must be minimized through economy of force operations, dispersion, and increased base defense capabilities.

Each unit operating in the rear area is responsible for providing its own security. These units must be organized and prepared to defend themselves so that the GCE can concentrate its effort on the close battle.

Support

Military police operating in the MAGTF rear area are an integral part of RAS. During planning, military police provide input to the MAGTF operational planning team (OPT). The MP RAS support effort includes the simultaneous execution of MP mission capabilities (e.g., MMSO) and other area security functions.

While conducting MMSO missions, military police support RAS by maintaining MSRs and LOC security and by providing a hasty reconnaissance capability. When needed, military police respond as an augmenting security force. In support of RAS, military police patrol the area, conduct surveillance activities, provide early warning and rapid reaction forces, and collect information for planning.

Patrolling

Military police move along rear area MSRs, LOC, and surrounding terrain in motor patrols and on foot patrols to reconnoiter and search for signs of enemy activity. These patrols can fix the enemy in place by fire and movement until other forces arrive or supporting fires can destroy them.

Surveillance Activities

Through observation and surveillance activities, military police identify possible enemy LZs and DZs and deny their use to the enemy.

Early Warning and Rapid Reaction Forces

Military police provide early warning and rapid reaction forces for immediate commitment. When the enemy occupies an LZ or DZ, every attempt should be made to destroy those enemy forces before they can leave the zone. Once located, enemy units must be attacked with the available force. Depending on the size of the enemy force, military police conduct immediate combat operations to nullify the enemy force or respond as an augmenting security force. However, the early identification of enemy zones may subject these areas to preplanned, on-call fires. If the enemy force is too large to be assaulted, military police fix and delay the enemy force until supporting troops or fires can be received.

Information Collection

Military police assist the OPT in RAS planning by providing information on significant threat activity or events and by recommending security force deployment locations to reduce the threat's effect on area operations. Military police support the information collection effort by monitoring—

- ┆ Road junctions.
- ┆ Forest paths and trails.
- ┆ Small groups of individuals trying to move through or evade detection in rear areas.
- ┆ Areas with groups or individuals sympathetic to the threat.
- ┆ Friendly high-value targets (e.g., ammo dumps, communications relay sites, CPs).

Liaison

While providing RAS support, military police must maintain constant liaison with the headquarters coordinating rear area operations or, if established, the rear area operations center (RAOC). Knowledge of MP patrols' locations and current situations enables the tactical security officer to support the military police if the threat level requires or to call in MP support for unit reinforcement.

Airfield Security

Military aircraft and their supporting facilities are prime enemy targets. A dedicated approach to airfield defense, which includes first echelon security, is essential to secure these assets. While military police are essential to the airfield defense effort, units operating in the ACE area of responsibility must also be able to provide organic security forces to counter enemy activities. The ACE provides guidance on where MP assets are needed to defend against the threat.

Support

Military police complement the ACE security efforts by functioning as a response or augmentation force or as reinforcement for the airfield security force, providing physical security support and defense in depth.

Physical Security

An integral part of airfield defense, physical security is concerned with physical measures designed to safeguard personnel and prevent unauthorized access to equipment, installations, material, and documents; and to safeguard them against espionage, sabotage, damage, and theft. Military police assist the ACE commander in identifying physical security requirements for a strong, active, physical security program. Physical security measures include establishing physical barriers, intrusion detection devices, motor and foot patrols, and access control techniques. These measures, coupled with strong intelligence and threat analysis programs, are vital to the security of the ACE AO.

Defense in Depth

The airfield defensive measures should include establishing a defense in depth to defeat or delay enemy forces intent on interfering with the aircraft launch. Defense in depth includes establishing strong defensive positions along the perimeter as well as incorporating plans for fire control and active foot and motor patrols inside and outside the perimeter. Military police assist the defensive effort in each of these areas. They are also suited to provide a defensive patrolling force by using mobility and firepower to locate and disrupt enemy intentions as early as possible. When establishing the defense in depth, commanders should consider the following echelon approaches:

- 1 First Echelon. This defense provides forces to guard the airstrip and aircraft within the confines of the airstrip and adjacent ramps. See figure 4-1. First echelon security is provided within the confines of the airfield security force.

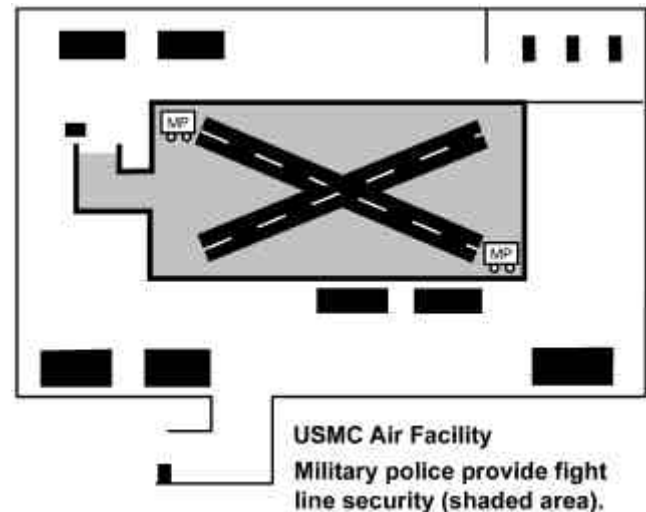


Figure 4-1. First Echelon Security.

- 2 Second Echelon. This defense involves access control and security of the buildings and support facilities surrounding the airfield. See figure 4-2.

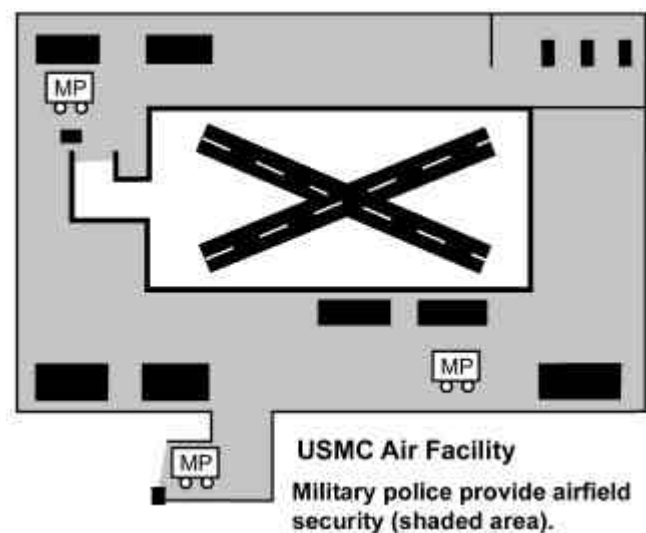


Figure 4-2. Second Echelon Security.

- 3 Third Echelon. This defense involves MP motor patrols to actively locate and destroy the enemy or disrupt their activities as far away from the airfield

as possible, reducing the need for close defense. See figure 4-3.

Coordination

The RAOC tactical security officer and the MP commander must work closely to coordinate limited assets effectively. Knowledge of the MP missions and the priority of these missions are keys in providing MP support to the ACE.

Security Measures

Area security plans should include airfield defense requirements for increased security patrols and static security measures. As part of this effort, MP mounted and dismounted patrols screen the area around an airfield day and night. Screening operations are coordinated with the RAOC or the tactical air operations center, depending on whether the airfield is in the forward or rear area. Military police conducting these operations concentrate on keeping the enemy from destroying resources on the ground and from interrupting or stopping air operations. To provide this support, military police—

- | Focus most of their efforts on night operations.
- | Conduct area and zone security patrols to detect, delay, disrupt, and destroy the enemy.
- | Increase mounted security patrols.
- | Maintain direct and indirect observation of possible enemy DZs and LZs within the AO.
- | Determine and recommend defensive position locations.
- | Recommend the location of defensive barriers to deny key terrain.
- | Set up MMSO measures, (e.g., TCPs and holding areas) to control traffic moving onto the airfield.
- | Increase NBC detecting and reporting.
- | Conduct delays to allow follow-on support forces to assemble if the enemy exceeds the combined capability of the ACE security augmentation force and the MP forces.
- | Establish external perimeter and entry control point access measures.

Aircraft Avenue of Approach Security

The airfield avenues of approach that fan out from the ends of runways are of particular importance to

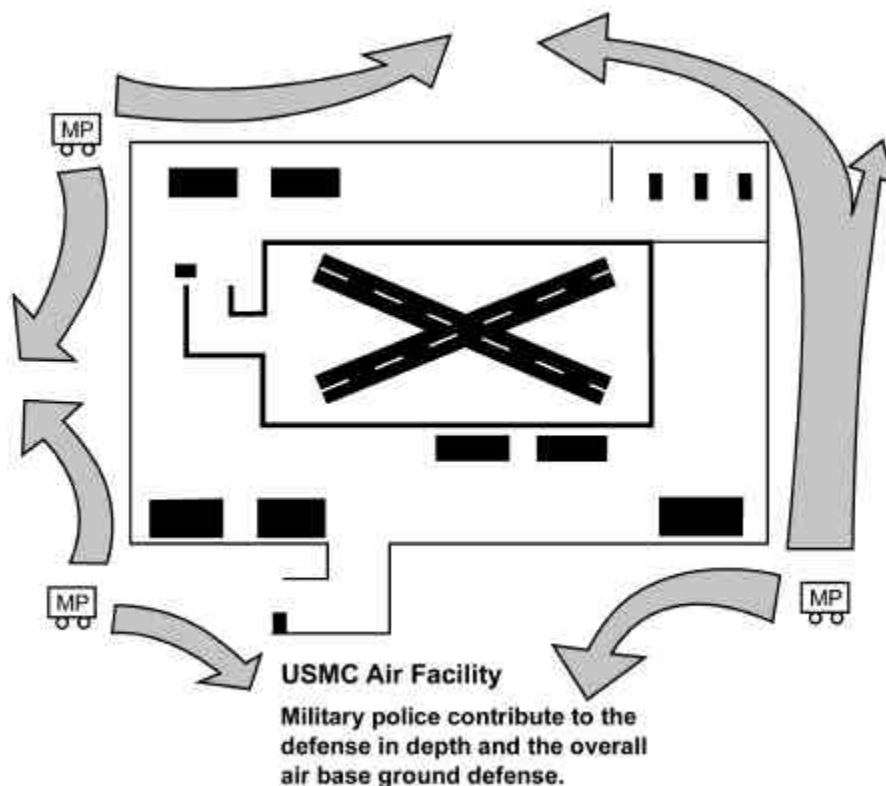


Figure 4-3. Third Echelon Security.

military police and ground forces in the defense area. See figure 4-4.

In these areas on either end of a runway, aircraft are particularly vulnerable to enemy ground fires because aircraft move slowly when taking off or landing. Threat forces scouting airfields will try to identify sector boundaries and hard-to-reach areas like swamps where external defense may not be as extensive. A dismounted threat will try to infiltrate an airfield through these areas and target aircraft with portable surface-to-air missiles.

Commanders should concentrate security efforts within these areas to discourage the enemy from engaging aircraft. Military police conducting mounted or dismounted operations in these areas can detect and help prevent the threat from engaging aircraft as they take off and land.

Water Obstacle Security

The airfield located next to a river, lake, or ocean provides unique security challenges. Water obstacles that penetrate the defense area may require airfield security forces to set up continuous battle positions between the water and critical facilities near the water, because threat infiltration, reconnaissance, and standoff weapons attack may be directed from the water.

While patrolling, military police conduct reconnaissance of these vulnerable areas and make recommendations for securing and protecting them.

Military police identify security measures to be implemented as part of the airfield security plan and recommend the use of obstacles that may include emplacement of fencing, mines, and sensor employment along portions of the perimeter.

Night Operations

The airfield is most vulnerable to threat when visibility is limited. The bulk of internal and external airfield security operations must be dedicated to threat forces detection during periods of limited visibility. When supporting airfield security operations, military police integrate and extensively use—

- ┆ Night vision devices.
- ┆ Tactical deception.
- ┆ Electronic sensors.
- ┆ Aggressive patrolling.
- ┆ Obstacles and barriers.

Forward Arming and Refueling Point Security

Future operations will continue to require a limited logistical footprint, which will probably include the use of FARPs. The FARPs help sustain the battle tempo by providing maneuver elements the ability to expend minimum time rearming and refueling while continuing operations.

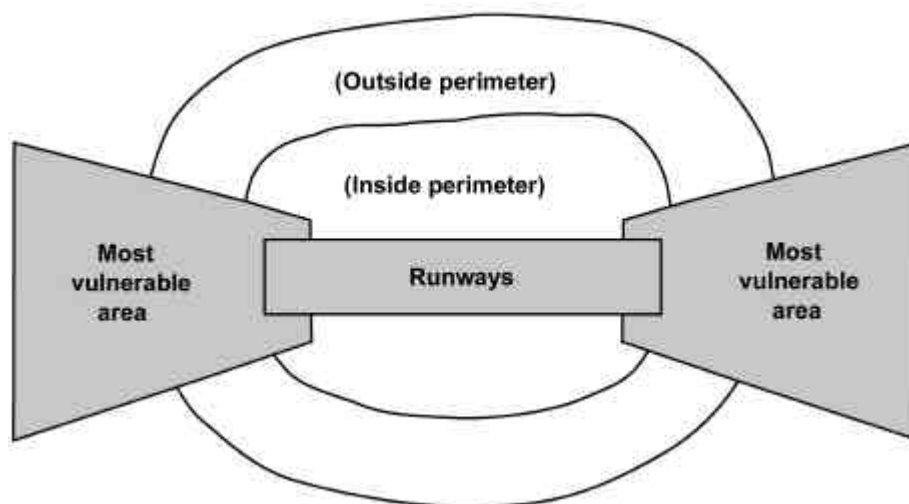


Figure 4-4. Areas Where Aircraft are Most Vulnerable to Enemy Ground Fire.

Military police assist in the planning and security of FARPs. Specific mission requirements and capabilities are determined by the number of military police available and other mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available–time available (METT-T). Military police quickly move vehicles through the FARP while maintaining a secure environment. The MP units' inherent mobility allows them to keep up with the FARP as it moves forward to support the mission.

Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Hazard Monitoring and Surveying Operations

Early detection of NBC hazards enhances the AO security and facilitates the movement of forces. Military police are especially useful for warning the command of NBC hazards because they move throughout the battlefield. Equipped with protective clothing and gear when performing NBC detection operations, military police may be formed in teams or squads that operate independently or as part of a larger detection effort.

To enhance force survivability, MP patrols make continuous observations throughout the AO. When military police detect an NBC hazard, they mark the contaminated area, secure the area, and report its status through operational channels. Military police inform road users and direct traffic to bypass the contaminated road network or area. These NBC detection efforts help troops and supplies to move safely on the battlefield.

Port Operations Security

Critical ships cargoes are at great risk to sabotage, diversion, and/or theft during loading, transporting, and storing phases of port operations. Supply corridors include ports, inland waterways, railways, pipelines, and airfields. Security measures should focus on aggressive patrolling of these corridors to detect, report, and combat the threat.

Normally, the HN or port authority identifies port security requirements. Because port facilities are often shared with allied forces, users must provide their own

security. Once security requirements are established, the HN may request U.S. assistance.

An integral part of maritime pre-positioning force arrival and assembly operations, military police provide security to ports, airfields, and connecting MSRs. Military police also support port operations by aggressively patrolling the area. The force movement control center coordinates U.S. port requirements and coordinates with the military police to ensure security concerns are addressed.

Strict port operations security measures must be established to offer protection of critical assets during ship loading and offloading. Depending on the size of the operation, military police assist port operations security by—

- ┆ Conducting liaison with other agencies (HN police and military, port security, Coast Guard).
- ┆ Enabling command relationships.
- ┆ Designating restricted areas.
- ┆ Controlling access.
- ┆ Patrolling likely avenues of approach (land and waterborne).
- ┆ Identifying barriers (natural and manmade).
- ┆ Determining MSRs (vulnerability, alternate routes) to and from the port area.
- ┆ Establishing static posts and roving patrols.

Logistic Convoy Security

The security provided by military police on MSRs help ensure battlefield resources reach their destination. Military police support logistic convoy security by conducting route reconnaissance and surveillance to—

- ┆ Identify primary and alternate routes.
- ┆ Establish convoy route traffic control measures.
- ┆ Expedite the delivery of food and supplies to areas devastated by natural or manmade disasters.

Typically, military police do not provide logistics convoy escorts because they do not have the organic manpower to provide substantial security escorts. However, in critical situations, military police may provide a limited escort for a convoy through their assigned patrol area. Primarily, military police direct

convoys to specific locations and provide security at specific areas along a route until the convoy passes.

To update route information military police coordinate with engineers, aviators, and HN police operating in the area. In addition, military police coordinate with the LMCC to ensure that control centers are aware of traffic requirements and movement along MSRs.

Special ammunition convoys may require MP escort. Members of the MP convoy escort must be familiar with the escorted unit's SOP and ensure that their own SOP is compatible.

Military police coordinate with HN, multinational, joint, and interagency units providing area security in the AO to determine convoy restrictions, requirements, and available support.